

## INCOMING TELEGRAM

## Department of State

44-48

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FROM: USMLM Berlin

TO: Secretary of State

NO: MLM 115, DTG 181910Z (Army Message) (SECTION ONE OF THREE)

NIACT

SENT CINCUSAREUR; REPEATED INFORMATION CINCOUR PARIS, CGARMYSEVEN, AMEMBASSY BONN, USNMR SHAPE, DEPTAR, DEPARTMENT STATE, DEPARTMENT DEFENSE, CG2 USAREUR HDL, CAD USAREUR HDL, USCOB BERLIN, USBER BERLIN, USBER BERLIN, SIGNED MCQUAIL.

Reference message MLM 113 and MLM 114.

1. At 1330 after Colonel McQuail and officers of USMLM made a survey of damages to the US mission property in Potsdam, including pictures taken of damages and of the slogans, Brigadier Howard and Major Smith of British mission arrived.
  2. Brigadier Howard was amazed to find the interior of the mission house undamaged. He stated that his property was a shambles. (See paragraph 10 for statement of what went on at his mission house during demonstration.)
  3. At 1350 Colonel Sergeyev arrived, accompanied by Lt. Vturin. When asked regarding the presence of Colonel Akchurin, Potsdam Kommandant, he (Sergeyev) stated that as we knew he was very busy and could not attend the luncheon. Colonel McQuail then conducted Colonel Sergeyev on a tour of the grounds to examine the damages made. After the tour was completed, Colonel McQuail took Colonel Sergeyev into a side room and the following discussion took place:
- McQuail: Colonel Sergeyev, I am shocked to find that we did not have timely nor proper protection given to us during the incident involving the East German hoodlums, specifically I protest the fact that Soviet forces did nothing when the East German hoodlums committed an insult to the United States by tearing down and burning the two US flags. I protest that the Soviet forces did nothing when the East German hoodlums violated the right of extraterritoriality of the mission grounds, house, vehicles and US accredited personnel.

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Control: 13284  
Rec'd: July 18, 1958  
11:17 p.m.

EUR: GCI: JPR/TDR/ERK  
WRN

762.0221/7-1858

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FROM: USMLM Berlin  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: MLM 115, DTG 181910Z (Army Message) (SECTION TWO OF THREE)  
NIACT

Control: 13292  
Rec'd: July 18, 1958  
11:55 p.m.



*En: gr: gpa/TD/uk*

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-- thus committing a dishonor upon my country. I strongly protest the fact that the GSFG did not protect the persons of the US Army officers and enlisted men from personal insult, insult to the US uniform and the attempt to do bodily harm to US nationals. I protest that when I appealed to the Commanding Officer of the Krampnitz Kaserne to use his phone in contacting you in this emergency, he denied the use of the phone to me.

5. Colonel Sergeyev, do you know that the East German police accused one of the German personnel who work for us of having torn down and burned the two flags?

6. During the above statements Lt. Vturin translated the above into Russian for Colonel Sergeyev. Colonel Sergeyev sat and listened attentively and did not say anything.

7. Colonel McQuail continued. Colonel Sergeyev, we called you at 10 o'clock to inform you of the incident. This was in ample time to receive protection warranted from the GSFG under the Huebner-Malinin agreement. I was most disappointed at the apparent lack of cooperation we received in this matter. I consider that actions of the East German hoodlums is not only an act against ourselves (US), but also an act against the dignity and honor of the Soviet Army. I want to show you the license plates that these hoodlums marked and defaced on our sedans. These license plates in effect are your license plates because they are written in Russian and state that we are accredited to the group of Soviet

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-2- MLM 115, DTG 181910Z (Army Message) (SECTION 2 of 3) from Berlin

forces. Colonel Sergeyev said, "Is that all my dear Colonel?" Colonel McQuail answered, "That is all for the present." Colonel Sergeyev then said, "I'll deliver your protest to my headquarters at once." Colonel McQuail said, "Colonel Sergeyev, I would like to have you see the license plates and how they are defaced." Colonel Sergeyev answered by stating, "Is that necessary? I have seen the damage." Colonel McQuail: "I am making a complete list of damages done to the house and to the US property and will send it to you." Colonel Sergeyev did not answer, but nodded his head. With this the meeting was concluded.

8. The group then rejoined the rest of the officers and lunch was served. During the luncheon at approximately 1500 hours the East German telephone rang, and Lt. Vturin was called to the phone. He returned to the dinner table and whispered in Colonel Sergeyev's ear. Colonel Sergeyev excused himself and answered the telephone. The telephone was in a separate room. However, the conversation was overheard by Sgt. Ely, a fluent Russian linguist who related the following: When Vturin came to the phone he asked, "Who wants him?" (Colonel Sergeyev). The caller replied: "The man on top." Vturin then called Sergeyev to the phone. Sergeyev asked: "Who is speaking?" Caller replied, "Zakharov, where are you now?" Sergeyev replied, "There." Zakharov: "I want to see you immediately." Sergeyev: "I can't leave now, but will leave in a half hour. Everything is under control at the moment." The party on the other end grunted an inaudible answer and hung up. End of conversation.

9. After phone conversation ended, Colonel Sergeyev resumed his seat and the luncheon was concluded. At approximately 1540, Colonel Sergeyev and Lt. Vturin left the mission house.

10. After Sergeyev left, Brigadier Howard summarized the incidents at the British house. He stated that the demonstration started at 0930. Two enlisted men were present at the time. He received this information at approximately 0940 and Major Smith called Colonel McQuail. Major Smith then called Serb at 0945. Lt. Vturin answered the phone at the time of the call and stated that he already knew of the demonstration. The Brigadier further

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*Department of State*

*Encl. 9/9/58 / T. D. M. J. K.*

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Control: 13296  
Rec'd: July 19, 1958  
12:20 a.m.

FROM: USMLM Berlin  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: MLM 115, DTG 181910Z (Army Message) (SECTION THREE OF THREE)

NIACT

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stated that shortly after the demonstration started Major Hallett, who was sitting in a car in front of the British mission house, saw a Russian Lt. Colonel milling in the crowd and then drive away. The two enlisted men in the house were chased out of the house and escaped over the back fence. Major Hallett sitting in the car was set upon by the mob, who turned the car over and attempted to force Major Hallett out of the car by turning a water hose on him. The Brigadier further stated that the mob broke into the mess house of the mission and made a complete shambles of the interior. The Brigadier mentioned that a copy of a letter addressed to USMLM, written by East German students protesting the US intervention in Lebanon, was delivered to the British mission house in Potsdam at approximately 1800 17 July (USMLM did not receive the letter). The Brigadier continued and stated that at 1220 hours today he went to Serb and requested an exhort to the British mission grounds. Colonel Sergeyev and Lt. Vturin were present at that time. Sergeyev ordered Lt. Alimov to accompany the Brigadier to the mission grounds, the Brigadier riding in Serb's Pobeda car. When the Brigadier saw the damage, he ordered Colonel Sergeyev to come and inspect the damage. Colonel Sergeyev arrived at 1300. The Brigadier started to protest the actions on the spot. Colonel Sergeyev answered: "I will listen, but refuse to look. You know, Brigadier, we have a luncheon engagement which you and I must attend. I agree to meet you after luncheon. I cannot accept a protest or speak in public." Shortly after this Colonel Sergeyev left, and the Brigadier came to the US mission house. Colonel Sergeyev arrived shortly thereafter. The Brigadier in telling of the above stated that he was meeting Colonel Sergeyev at 1700 hours.

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11. At 1640 Lt. Vturin called the US mission house and asked if the Brigadier was still there. The Brigadier answered the phone and after he hung up, stated that the meeting had been canceled at the request of Colonel Sergeyev because he would not be present.
12. During the conversation with the Brigadier after Colonel Sergeyev left, Captain Brem and Lt. De Friede of the French mission, who were also present at the luncheon, summarized the incidents at their house. Shortly before 11 o'clock many busloads and truckloads of demonstrators drove by the French mission house singing the Internationale and hurling insults at the French. There was no demonstration as such in front of the French house. However, Lt. De Friede and Captain Brem on their way to the French mission house became involved in a demonstration. Their car was stopped as they proceeded slowly through the crowd and their car was rocked and banged. The plates of their mission vehicle were torn off, and their tires were punctured. They believed that they were in danger of being overturned until suddenly the crowd parted for the passage of an East German ambulance. When the ambulance passed through the crowd, the French followed the ambulance and escaped from the crowd and arrived at their house.
13. Two new US flags were brought from Berlin and were unfurled at the Potsdam house at 1430 hours.
14. Following statements given by Siegfried Wengen and Mrs. Gabriel, East German employees of the USMLM at Potsdam. They said demonstrators came from Potsdam area; MTS station near mission house, Karl Marx Works and Technical High School. Siegfried, the mechanic, who later helped serve during the luncheon, stated that the demonstrators forced him outside and one of the East German newspaper reporters said, "There he is. He is the man who tore down the American flag and replaced it with a mop." Siegfried told mission officers that this was not true, that he was locked up in a room inside of mission quarters at the time this happened, and he believed the East German reporter did this to place blame on one of the personnel who worked for the US military mission. It may be added that when Siegfried noticed the demonstrators coming down the road toward the mission house he ran to the garage, locked the mission vehicles and threw the keys away.

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-3- MLM 115, DTG 181910Z (Army Message) (SECTION 3 OF 3) from Berlin  
15. Photographs and estimate of damages will be forwarded.

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